MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know what is the rate at which rice is sold at Trivandrum?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Current price is Rs. 26-8-0 for a bag 160 lbs. net.

*Purchase of food grains.*

126. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have proposed to do away with the present system of storing food grains under the direct custody of the department;

(*b*) the nature of the proposals;

(*c*) as a result of the proposal whether they have ordered for the release of the store-houses from commandeering; and

(*d*) why they have ordered for re-commandeering the store-houses which were released?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

(*d*) No godown which was released was ordered to be re-commandeered.

*Purchase of food grains.*

127. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount invested in purchasing the food grains?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: From 1118 to end of Medom 1121, a sum of Rs. 2,654·06 lakhs has been invested on purchasing food grains.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know from the honourable member what amount was realised by the sale of foodgrains during this period?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is roughly about 27 crores of rupees. The accounts have not been finalised however.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the accounts were begun to be prepared, with regard to food purchase, only just now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. Some nine months back we appointed a special officer with the requisite staff for auditing the accounts in the Food Department.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: So may I take that there was no account kept before nine months?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No. Accounts are being kept from the beginning. A special officer with a large staff has been appointed for auditing the accounts. As I have already explained we have a joint account with our sister State of Cochin. We are getting foodstuffs from various places like the United Provinces, the Central Provinces etc. Also foodgrains are allotted for Travancore and Cochin together. The Special Officer with his staff of auditors and accountants is preparing the balance-sheet and in another three months his report is expected to be ready.

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